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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,455	07/29/2003	Lee E. Steinman		7317
7590	07/01/2004		EXAMINER	
McCulloch PLC 5291 Colony Drive North Saginaw, MI 48603			BAXTER, GWENDOLYN WRENN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	W
	10/629,455	STEINMAN, LEE E.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gwendolyn Baxter	3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM  
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ .

This is the first office action for application serial number 10/629,455, Trivet, filed on July 29, 2003.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 5-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 5, line 9, pronoun “it” should be replaced by the proper noun to avoid any ambiguity, thus distinctly claiming and particularly pointing out the subject matter. A similar problem occurs in claims 7, 8, and 16.

In claim 7, line 3, “the first mentioned retainer” lacks proper antecedent basis.

In claim 8, line 11, “the associated stem” lacks proper antecedent basis.

In claim 10, line 5, “said one surface” lacks proper antecedent basis.

In claim 16, line 6, “the confines” lacks proper antecedent basis.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,212,717 B1 to Cooper. The present invention reads on Cooper as follows: Cooper

teaches a device comprises a body (26, 30) formed of thermal insulating material having at least one opening (30) extending therethrough. The opening is defined by a wall having a height corresponding to the thickness of the body at the opening. The opening being encircled by an upstanding reinforcing flange (not numbered) having an internal bore extending in prolongation of said wall. The bore and the opening are coextensive in cross sectional area. The wall of the opening and the bore are smooth.

Claims 8, 9, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,559,251 to Wachi. Wachi teaches a device comprising a first body member (21) and a second body member (21) each of which is formed of thermal insulating material having opposite surfaces. Means coupling (22) the first body member and the second body member to one another has been provided. The coupling means comprising a strap (22) joined at one end to a first retainer (22b) and at its opposite end to a second retainer (22b). Each of the retainer comprising a stem (23a) having a length at least as great as the thickness of each said body member, each said stem having at its opposite ends an enlargement (23b) extending laterally of the associated stem. Each of the body member having an opening therein of such size a snugly to accommodate one of said stems. Each of the enlargement being of such size as to extend beyond said opening and overlie an adjacent portion of said body member when the associated stem is within one of said openings. At least one of said enlargements being sufficiently deformable as to enable it to pass through either of said openings. The strap being of such length as to enable said strap to span said first and second members when one of said retainers has its stem accommodated in one of the openings. The enlargement at one end of each the stem is formed by a part of the strap. The stem is hollow.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 10-14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

*Conclusion*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Howell D309,234; Claesson D339,265 and Lara D488,954 each teaches a trivet having protrusion or interconnects.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gwendolyn Baxter whose telephone number is 703-308-0702. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday, 8:00am -5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie A Braun can be reached on 703-308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Gwendolyn Baxter  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3632

June 27, 2004